

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**October 23, 2013 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013,  
at 6:00pm in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair  
Susan Lotz, Vice Chair  
Frank Johnson  
Cliff Moon  
Talmage Pearce  
Lu Ann Schmidt  
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas  
Ruth Giese  
Ray Villa

GUESTS

Cheryl Anderson  
Tony Liuzzo  
David Luna

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 5:53pm.

- Hong Chartrand's Resignation.

Ms. Heap advised of Ms. Chartrand's resignation and thanked her for her years of service. Ms. Heap also plans to send a personal letter on behalf of the board members stating such.

2. Items from Citizens Present.\*

There were no citizens that requested to speak.

3. Approval of minutes from the September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Schmidt to approve the September 25th, 2013 minutes. Mr. Tompert seconded the motion. Ms. Schmidt noted a correction on page 2 of the regular meeting minutes under the second bullet in item seven. Record should state Ms. Schmidt is a member of the Disabilities Task Force instead of Ms. Lotz (same correction to be made on the special meeting minutes of the same date listed on the second bullet under item three). Mr. Tompert noted a correction on the second bullet under item ten, should state the December 25th meeting was cancelled instead of December 4th. The motion carried unanimously with the mentioned corrections.

4. Hear and discuss items presented by District 5 Councilmember David Luna and provide update to him on board goals and activities.

Mr. Luna introduced himself to the board as a former HRAB member. Mr. Luna has been a Mesa resident since 1988 and has been employed with Mesa Public Schools as director of the Educational Television Department. Mr. Luna has also been involved with many non-profit organizations such as East Valley Resource Center, A New Leaf, United Food Bank, Mesa United Way, etc. Mr. Luna was appointed on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 as Councilmember for District 5 and has been busy learning more about the City of Mesa and what the scope of work includes such as neighborhoods, economic development, housing, and much more. Mr. Luna concluded by extending an open invitation to the board to contact him.

In return, the board members reviewed their goals as defined in their 2013-2014 Strategic Plan, and provided updates from each of the subcommittees. Ms. Heap asked Mr. Luna to encourage the appointment process given that there are current vacancies. Ms. Heap also questioned Mr. Luna what he would like to see from HRAB. In response, Mr. Luna commented on the success of the board's current outreach and projected goals. Mr. Luna urged the continuation of participation in diversity related events such as Latino Town Hall on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

5. Discuss and take action on Mesa Police Department Report.

- Hear report on police related incidents and activities.

Mr. Villa informed the board members that the Mesa Police Department participated in the Week Without Violence event on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at St. Mathews Church. Over 400 people attended the event, which included a kid's poetry contest and other means of distributing information about domestic violence awareness. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, the poetry contest winners had a special ceremony at Mesa Community College where their work is also being displayed.

Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) will be occurring on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. Staff from City of Mesa departments travels throughout the city to different neighborhood gatherings distributing information and visiting with residents.

Mr. Villa also advised of plans for each of the district commanders to attend an upcoming board meeting in order to provide more detailed updates. Ms. Heap asked if the Red Mountain District Commander be the first to attend in December. Mr. Villa accepted the request. Ms. Heap questioned if there had been any home evasions in Mesa. Mr. Villa did not have the information on hand but explained that home evasions typically involve parties that know each other and are targeting either drugs or money. Ms. Heap questioned if there were any hate crimes reported. In response, Mr. Villa stated that there was no hate crimes reported in the month since his last report.

- Updates and scheduling of upcoming Police Advisory Board meetings.

The Senior Advisory Board will be meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 9:30am at the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center, the Asian Community Advisory Board will be meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 5pm at Dobson Pediatrics Center, and the Non-Profit Advisory Board will be meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Mesa Community College. The Non-Profit Advisory Board is joined with the Service Learning Board and together they will be working on educating the public on sex trafficking. Mr. Villa invited the board members to the Inter-Faith Sex Trafficking Summit on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 9am-3pm at Redemption Church, 2150 E. Southern, Tempe. The summit is a free event provided by the Office of Sex Trafficking and Intervention Research from the School of Social Work at Arizona State University, as well as the Phoenix Police Department.

6. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Ad Hoc Issues Research and Action Team.

- Update on the community survey.

Mr. Moon informed that staff is working in collaboration with research experts Morrison Institute on drafting a phone survey. Ms. Heap added that due to the difficulties in obtaining individual phone numbers for individuals who identify themselves in the selected subcategories (LGBT and Disabilities communities) Morrison Institute has recommended increasing the random survey to 600 participants in lieu of the two specialized surveys. Mr. Tompert agreed that his employer would not release phone numbers of their clients and realizes that other organizations would have similar restrictions, thus making it very difficult to meet the requirements of the specialized surveys. Ms. Schmidt questioned if phone numbers could still be submitted from willing participants to ensure that representation of the subcategories are met. Ms. Heap concurred with Ms. Schmidt's reasoning but reminded the board that they will still be conducting the dialogue series and data will be collected from subgroup during that forum. Ms. Lotz also commented that over 20% of the population identify themselves with a disability so it is very likely that the phone survey will get adequate representation on that community. Ms. Lotz made a motion to conduct 600 random phone interviews, Mr. Pearce seconded. The motion moved unanimously.

- Report on the Mesa Speaks, Mesa Listens: Community Conversation on Discrimination series.

Mr. Moon stated that IRA members discussed the need to identify short term and long term goals for the project, as well as an evaluation to determine the success of the series.

- Report on speaker's bureau.

Mr. Moon advised that he has researching different speakers and drafting verbiage for a proposed website. He will present his findings during the next IRA meeting. Ms. Heap commented that other board members may have names of speakers that could be added to the list. Mr. Moon asked members to forward such information to staff. Mr. Moon also directed that they should avoid adding speakers that charge, as they wish to promote free knowledge.

7. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Ad Hoc Disabilities Action Team.

- Update on plans for educational event related to service animals.

Mr. Tompert stated that their agenda was set to start working on project. Ms. Schmidt will be following up with some of her service animal connections and reporting back at the next meeting.

- Report on court administrator presentation to HRAB about the new protocol for diverting defendants with mental health issues, veterans and the homeless.

Mr. Tompert announced that the presentation has been scheduled for the January regular board meeting.

- Report on ways to educate the community in mental health issues.

Mr. Tompert stated that the team is working on ways to educate themselves and the community on mental health issues. The team will begin outreach for presentations to be made at upcoming DAT and regular board meetings.

- Report on distribution of resources at Celebrate Mesa Event held on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Lotz and Ms. Schmidt both attended Celebrate Mesa on behalf of the board and commented on the success of the event. Ms. Lotz participated in the Diversity Office booth and stated that there were two requests for information about the board.

Mr. Tompert also noted that they received a presentation from the Transportation Department Director who will be providing quarterly updates to DAT and annual updates to the board. Mr. Tompert stated that the report was encouraging in that they will be continue to support the Dial-a-Ride program and other means of providing transportation to the disabled.

8. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Ad Hoc Youth Diversity Education Team.

- Creation of HRAB seat for youth member.

Ms. Lotz stated that they had been looking into creating a permanent youth member seat on the board. Currently there is a college applicant who could fulfill the position in the meantime, but the discussion was about having an annually rotating youth seat. Mr. Tompert commented that the board had previously considered a youth seat but declined to take action due to the limitations of a vacant seat and requirements of changing the charter. Although the board is encouraging of youth participation, they decided to suspend taking action on making a specialized youth seat at this time.

Ms. Lotz commented that she saw a young man in a 'diversity' jersey at the Celebrate Mesa event that was part of the Diversity Club at Red Mountain High School. Ms. Lotz suggested having updates from various school groups during the board meetings to represent the youth voice.

- Report on discussion of the MESA project.

Ms. Lotz reported that they were considering implementing the Mesa Police Department project, as reported on by Mr. Villa at the last board meeting, at other schools. Ms. Lotz stated that they will be continuing to research the possibility.

- Report on educating youth through the Cinema Series project.

Ms. Lotz explained that the team discussed using the existing Cinema Series, which is sponsored by the board, and implementing an education program at high schools. Plans are being drafted to pilot one of the high schools in the spring time and if successful they will broadly distribute at other schools in the fall.

- Report on educating youth through the bullying project.

Ms. Lotz advised that this would be a long term project and that the team will be working on research in order to develop a plan of action.

9. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Ad Hoc Veterans Task Force.

Ms. Arenas informed the board that candidate Justin Smothers was selected for the VISTA member position to work with VTF in fulfilling their identified goals. Mr. Smothers will begin his year- long term on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and now that staffing is available a meeting date can be set. Mr. Tompert made a motion for staff to contact Veteran Task Force participants to schedule the next meeting, Ms. Heap seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Discuss consider and take action on participation in 2014 Mesa MLK Jr. Celebration Events.

Mr. Moon, who is also the Chair of the Mesa MLK Jr. Celebration Committee, provided information on this year's events. It was moved by Mr. Tompert to approve participation in the event, Ms. Lotz seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

11. Discuss, consider and take action on participation in 2014 Regional Unity Walk.

It was moved by Ms. Schmidt to approve participation in the event, Mr. Moon seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

12. Hear and discuss conferences and/or meetings.

- Diversity Leadership Alliance Conference on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 from 8am-3pm at Sheraton in Downtown Phoenix.

Ms. Arenas advised that event information will be distributed again via email.

- Community Cinema Series on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 6pm, Mesa Arts Center.

Ms. Arenas announced that the name of the film being shown is titled, The State of Arizona.

13. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

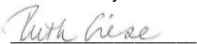
Ms. Heap announced that starting in January the Disabilities Action Team will be meeting the third Tuesday of each month instead of the second Tuesday of each month. There will be no meeting in December. Ms. Heap also informed that there will be an upcoming Regional HRC meeting soon, and details will likely be provided at the next meeting.

- Next meeting will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6pm in the UPPER Council Chambers.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator